

Claims:

1. A method of responding to a request, the method comprising the steps of:
establishing a plurality of categories of potential requests;
associating a plurality of sets of data with each of the categories; and,
in response to receipt of a request, relating one of the categories to the request and
preparing a response including at least two sets of data from the related category.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said categories are selected from the
group consisting of news, music and technology.
3. A method of responding to a request, the method comprising the steps of:
establishing a plurality of categories of potential requests;
associating a plurality of sets of data with each of the categories;
archiving successive requests from a given requester; and,
in response to receipt of a new request from the same requester, relating one of the
categories to an archived request and the same or a different category to the new request and
preparing a response including at least two sets of data from at least one related category or at
least one set of data from each of at least two related categories.
4. A method according to claim 3 wherein said categories are selected from the
group consisting of news, music and technology.
5. A method for providing user information related to a user's selection of audio data,
the method comprising the steps of:
receiving a user's selection of audio data and an indicium identifying the user;
analyzing the user's present selection of audio data and previous selections, if any, of
audio data, and identifying at least one user interest category based on the user's present and
previous audio data selections;
selecting at least one user information item from the at least one identified user interest
category;

delivering the associated or combined at least one user information item and the user's audio data selection to the user over an electronic network.

assigning each of said user's present audio data selections and said user's previous audio data selections to said at least one user interest category, and counting the number of assignments to each of said at least one user interest category; and

when the accumulated number of assignments to a selected one of said at least one user interest category is greater than a selected threshold number, identifying the selected one of said at least one user interest category as a category from which said at least one user information item is selected.

assigning each of said user's present audio data selections and said user's previous audio data selections to said at least one user interest category, assigning each of said user's present audio data selections and each of said user's previous audio data selections an approximate time at which said audio data selection was received, assigning each of said audio data selections a weighting factor that decreases as the difference between a present time and the approximate time at which said audio data selection was received, multiplying the numerical value of an assignment to each of said at least one user interest category by a corresponding weighting factor to produce a numerical value for a weighted assignment to each of said at least one user interest category, and counting the numerical value of the weighted assignment to each of said at least one user interest category; and

when the accumulated number of weighted assignments to a selected one of said at least one user interest category is greater than a selected threshold number, identifying the selected one of said at least one user interest category as a category from which said at least one user

information item is selected.

8. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of choosing said at least one user interest category from the group of categories consisting of political news, economic news, cultural news, social news, technology news and music.

9. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of selecting said at least one user information item to be an advertisement of at least one product that is related to said at least one user interest category.

10. A system for responding to a request, the system comprising:
a store for data organized in a plurality of categories each including a plurality of sets of data; and
means responsive to receipt of a request for relating one of the categories to the request and preparing a response including at least two sets of data from the related category.

11. A system according to claim 10 wherein said categories are selected from the group consisting of news, music and technology.

12. A system for responding to a request, the system comprising:
a store for data organized in a plurality of categories each including a plurality of sets of data;
means for archiving successive requests from a given requester; and
means responsive to receipt of a new request from the same requester for relating one of the categories to an archived request and the same or a different category to the new request and preparing a response including at least two sets of data from at least one related category or at least one set of data from each of at least two related categories.

13. A system according to claim 12 wherein said categories are selected from the group consisting of news, music and technology.

14. A system for providing user information related to a user's selection of audio data, the system comprising:

an audio data server that receives a user's selection of audio data and an indicium identifying the user;

a user information server that analyzes the user's present selection of audio data and previous selections, if any, of audio data, that identifies at least one user interest category based on the user's present and previous audio data selections that selects at least one user information item from the at least one identified user interest category, and that associates or combines the at least one user information item with the user's audio data selection; and

an audio data delivery system that delivers the associated or combined at least one user information item and the user's audio data selection to the user over an electronic network.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said user information server assigns each of said user's present audio data selections and said user's previous audio data selections to said at least one user interest category, and counts the number of assignments to each of said at least one user interest category; and

when the accumulated number of assignments to a selected one of said at least one user interest category is greater than a selected threshold number, said user information server identifies the selected one of said at least one user interest category as a category from which said at least one user information item is selected.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein said user information server assigns each of said user's present audio data selections and said user's previous audio data selections to said at least one user interest category, assigns each of said user's present audio data selections and each of said user's previous audio data selections an approximate time at which said audio data selection was received, assigns each of said audio data selections a weighting factor that decreases as the difference between a present time and the approximate time at which said audio data selection was received, multiplies the numerical value of an assignment to each of said at least one user interest category by a corresponding weighting factor to produce a numerical value for a weighted

assignment to each of said at least one user interest category, and counts the numerical value of the weighted assignment to each of said at least one user interest category; and

when the accumulated number of weighted assignments to a selected one of said at least one user interest category is greater than a selected threshold number, said user information server identifies the selected one of said at least one user interest category as a category from which said at least one user information item is selected.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein said at least one user interest category is chosen from the group of categories consisting of political news, economic news, cultural news, social news, technology news and music.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein said at least one user information item is selected to be an advertisement of at least one product that is related to said at least one user interest category.

19. A method according to claim 2 wherein said news is selected from the group consisting of political news, economic news, and cultural and social news.

20. A method according to claim 19 wherein:
said political news is selected from the group consisting of domestic political news and foreign political news;

said economic news is selected from the group consisting of domestic economic news and foreign economic news; and

said social and cultural news is selected from the group consisting of local events and developments, national events and developments, foreign events and developments, the arts, and entertainment; and wherein:

said music is selected from the group consisting of current popular music, older popular music, semi classical music, and classical music; and

said technology is selected from the group consisting of telecommunications; electronics and related technologies; space exploration and colonization; manufacturing and operations;

transportation and automotive vehicles; chemical technology; and biotechnology.

21. Apparatus according to claim 19 wherein said classical music is selected from the group consisting of pre-baroque music, baroque music, romantic music, modern music, operas, operettas, lieder and ballet and other dance music.

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